



## **Plan Administrator – Change of Address**

Please note that Aon Hewitt has moved to:

1111 West Georgia Street, Suite 2010  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4M3

Contact information is detailed below.

## **BCGEU Pension Plan Eligibility**

The question of Pension Plan eligibility arises from time to time. The terms of eligibility are determined by the various collective agreements and the Pension Plan text. Eligibility is also subject to the legislation and regulations of the Pension Benefits Standards Act (PBSA) of British Columbia. The BCGEU Pension Plan is considered a Multi-Employer Pension Plan which has special features attached to it. BCGEU members hired as regular employees are immediately enrolled in the Pension Plan. However, BCGEU members are often hired on an auxiliary or part time basis before attaining a regular position.

BCGEU auxiliary or part time employees often question when the earliest point is that they can enroll in the Pension Plan. The eligibility criteria in most collective agreements is the same as the PBSA requirement; the employee must participate once a certain period of time and earnings have been achieved. Specifically, once the BCGEU member has worked two consecutive years (with no less than 350 hours worked each year), and has had earnings in excess of 35% of the YMPE, they must participate in the Pension Plan at the beginning of the third year.

The YMPE (Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings) is determined by the federal government. The YMPE for the last five years are as follows:

2007	\$43,700	(35% = \$15,295)
2008	\$44,900	(35% = \$15,715)
2009	\$46,300	(35% = \$16,205)
2010	\$47,200	(35% = \$16,520)
2011	\$48,300	(35% = \$16,905)

It is important for auxiliary and part time employees to monitor their earnings threshold and make written application for pension membership once they have met the eligibility criteria. Please contact the Plan Administrator if you require further information.


## **Important Reminders:**

- Check that your employer is remitting the correct percentage of employee and employer contributions as prescribed in the Collective Agreement.
- If you move, please make sure you **provide the Plan Administrator and the Union with your change of address**. If you know of any member who did not receive an annual pension statement, it means that they need to provide the Administrator and the Union with their current address.
- If you are retiring this year, you should be aware that annuities purchased through the Plan are purchased on a "net of commission" basis. This results in annuity payments which are higher compared to annuities purchased after Plan funds have been transferred out of the Plan. For your information, based on recent annuity purchases, a 65-year-old male member having an account balance of \$100,000 would receive an estimated pension of \$595 per month for the duration of his lifetime (with no spouse's pension).
- For more information about your Plan, please refer to the relevant sections of your pension booklet before contacting the Union or the Plan Administrator.

## **BCGEU Website**

Visit [www.bcgeu.ca](http://www.bcgeu.ca). Click on 'Pensions' box in the bottom right hand corner. Next, "Click to visit BCGEU Pension Plan page". You will find copies of past newsletters and other pension information.

## **Sources of Information \*\*NOTE NEW NUMBERS\*\***

Plan Administrator	
Fax:	604-683-0249
Toll Free Phone:	1-888-993-8993
General Line:	604-683-7311
Barbara Whitear	Extension 232
Barbara Whitear –	
Direct Line	604-844-7932
E-Mail:	barbara.whitear@aonhewitt.com